



Forest Lake Times

June 9, 2022 | Volume #120 | Issue #4 | 651-464-4601 | ForestLakeTimes.com | \$1.50

Area school buses will soon be armed with interior and exterior security cameras

Officials aim to capture stop-sign-arm violators, curb in-bus poor behavior

Natalie Ryder
Community Editor

A grant from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety is helping equip Forest Lake's 109 school buses with cameras on their stop sign arms, aiming to crack down on drivers who fail to stop for buses. The Forest Lake Area School District received a \$270,575 grant this past year and will install them over the summer.

"If we were going to do this, we wanted to outfit all of our buses, because if we're going to do it, we're going to do it right," Forest Lake school resource officer Tom Coulter said.

Coulter said the cameras will allow bus drivers to instantaneously and accurately capture drivers who violate the bus stop sign law, which requires drivers to stop and wait for buses when dropping off or picking up children, or when stopping for railroad crossings.

He applied for the grant when



Photo by Natalie Ryder

Forest Lake school resource officer Tom Coulter receives one or two school bus stop arm violations per week, and he hopes the installation of stop arm cameras will curb violations.

he discovered the state was offering more funding toward this project, since he has received this same grant for a school district at which he was previously employed.

"We want to make sure our kids are safe, that everybody gets home safe and that our drivers aren't taxed," Coulter said.

Typically, he receives one to two stop arm violation reports a week from bus drivers. Coulter said violation reports from this school year totaled around 60

the last time he checked, but that number isn't accurate because many violations go unreported due to a lack of information bus drivers can retain about the vehicle.

"I've been told by drivers that there's generally like 1-of-5 violations that they are actually able to get all of the information [needed for a report]," Coulter said.

Currently without the cameras, bus drivers have to document the license plate, describe the car

Bus cameras see page 2

Local wins prize packages worth \$33,000 on 'Let's Make a Deal'

Retired microbiologist headed on dream vacation to Galapagos after winning show's big prize

Hannah Davis
News Editor

A bit of boredom and a lack of internet led to a big win for a new Forest Lake resident on the daytime show "Let's Make a Deal," which aired on June 7. Dawn Sturtz, a recently retired FDA microbiologist from Iowa, ended up winning three prize packages totaling a \$33,000 value, including a lifetime dream vacation to the Galapagos Islands.

"I started crying," she said about the moment she won, and said at the time, "Stuff like this doesn't happen to me."

Sturtz moved from Iowa to Forest Lake in September to be close to her daughter and son-in-law, Minnetonka

residents who were expecting their first child in early 2022. While she was waiting for internet service at her new house to get hooked up, she'd spend her free mornings watching daytime TV. She began to watch a childhood favorite: "Let's Make a Deal!"

"I can remember as a kid when Monty Hall was on. It was always so fun. The people would have their purses and bags full of safety pins and Band-Aids to see if they would get called on. I was a fan when I was a kid," she said. "I was up here with no internet, and it was winter in Minnesota, so I'm watching daytime television."

On one of the shows, she saw a blurb flash across the screen, saying the show was looking for new contestants. She went to the website, and filled out the application, and quickly got a call back by a producer asking to do a virtual interview.

"I didn't even have in-

Sturtz see page 4

News Pages 1-4 | Opinion Page 5 | Arts & Entertainment Page 6 | Community Pages 7-11 | Puzzles Page 8 | Announcements Page 9 | Classifieds Pages 12-19 | Sports Pages 25-27 | Business Page 28

WE DO EVERYTHING!
ROYAL CREDIT UNION DOES BUSINESS BANKING!

- Online Loan Applications
- Dedicated Business Bankers
- Cash Management Solutions



rcu.org/RoyalBusiness
715-833-7296
BusinessBanking@rcu.org

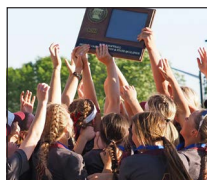
Equal Housing Opportunity. Insured by NCUA.

COMMUNITY



On track
Kids take part in track day
Page 9

SPORTS



State-bound
Softball beats Anoka for section title
Page 25



PUBLIC NOTICES Can be found on pages 20-24



Photo by Hannah Davis

Senior Ryan Eischen competes in the second day of the boys golf Section 5AAA tournament on Wednesday, June 1 at Bunker Hills Golf Course.

Eischen finishes 15th in section golf tournament

Boys team wraps up season with seventh-place finish

Stuart Groskreutz
Contributing Writer

The Forest Lake boys golf team wrapped up its season with a seventh-place finish in the Section 5AAA tournament on Wednesday, June 1 at Bunker Hills Golf Course in Coon Rapids.

The Rangers posted a score of 340 and did not make the cut for Round 2 on June 3.

Spring Lake Park turned in a score of 300 on Day 2 to hold off Maple Grove 597-603 for the team title and a spot in the state tournament on June 14-15, also at Bunker Hills.

Forest Lake seniors Ryan Eischen and Gavin Middendorf qualified to compete in the second round of the tourney as individuals.

Eischen finished 15th in the individual

standings with a total of 159. He was tied for fourth after shooting a 75 in the first round, but was unable to maintain that position after shooting an 84 in the second round. The top five finishers not on the state-qualifying team also advance to state as individuals.

Middendorf shot a 79 in the second round to climb up 12 spots and finish 27th in the individual standings with a total of 165.

Jake Birdwell of Spring Lake Park was the individual medalist with a two-day total of 137 (68-69), four shots ahead of runner-up Ryan Stendahl (71-70—141) of Maple Grove.

Carsen Anderson shot an 87 in the first round and did not advance, along with teammates Riley Middendorf (92), Jack Grundtner (94) and Dayne Diersen (97).

Softball shuts out Anoka for return to state

Aaron Heckmann
Contributing Writer

The Rangers softball team will be headed back to the state tournament in Mankato next week after taking down No. 3-seed Anoka in spectacular fashion in the 7AAAA championship game on Thursday, June 2, at Aspen Park, in games not completed at press time. The team dominated the game with a 9-0 win against the Tornados on Thursday, June 2, at Aspen Park in Coon Rapids.

“[Going to state] never gets old,” Forest Lake coach Sean Hall said. “It’s really exciting to get the opportunity to go down to Mankato and see what we can do against the best teams in the state.”

The Rangers’ offense was present right out of the gate with senior Grace Frechette hitting in junior Bethany Weiss to take a 1-0 lead in the first inning. Offense proved to be the difference in the one-sided contest, with Weiss and sophomore Maddie Muellner hitting home runs in the third and fourth inning, respectively.

“We executed...we had clutch hits and knocked in runs when we needed to,” Hall said. “Our offense made it a little easier because we had a few defensive dropped balls.”

Seniors Frechette, Bailey Thomas and Amber Dunaski were also huge



Submitted photo

The Rangers softball team celebrates its shutout win over Anoka to capture the Section 7AAAA championship and a return to the state tournament.

factors in the Rangers offense, combining for seven hits. Eighth grader Avery Muellner pitched all seven innings, striking out eight batters in the shutout and allowing just two hits in her strong performance.

Despite Forest Lake’s loss of eight seniors to graduation last year, it hasn’t hindered the Rangers from having another deep run for the state title. The depth and quality of the players is what Hall describes as a “tremendous feeder program.”

Hall said one of the major stepping stones this season was playing against the strong teams in the Suburban East Conference, such as Stillwater, White Bear Lake and East Ridge. Those closely contested

matchups have helped prepare them for the major games on the horizon.

While Forest Lake is missing several key players from last year’s roster, there are still a number of upperclassmen who played in the state tournament last year. And the experience they got from it could prove to be a major help heading into the tournament, according to Hall.

“It’s huge, because a lot of the girls have played in that environment and won’t be afraid of it,” Hall said. “Knowing what to expect is a big advantage.”

To follow the team’s bid for the state title, visit forestlaketimes.com for the most recent updates.

Girls golf takes second in Section 5AAA tournament

Leonhart advances to state as individual

Stuart Groskreutz
Contributing Writer

It was a new section, but a similar result for the Forest Lake girls golf team.

The Rangers, who were moved out of Section 7AAA this spring following realignment by the Minnesota State High School League, finished second behind third-ranked Maple Grove in the Section 5AAA Meet on Thursday, June 2 at The Links at Northfork.

The Crimson opened up a 35-shot lead after Day 1 of the section tourney on Tuesday, May 31 and did not look back while improving by nine shots in the second round to post a winning total of 643 (326-317). Forest Lake (361-

362—723) maintained its position in second place while Roseville (364-374) followed in third.

Freshman Bella Leonhart earned a repeat trip to state after placing sixth in the individual standings with a two-day total of 164 (81-83), to take place on

June 14-15 at Bunker Hills Golf Course. The top five finishers not on the qualifying team advance to state as individuals.

Forest Lake eighth-grader Taylor Thompson (88-93—181) finished 16th in the individual standings while junior teammate

Hailey Stanius (91-94—184) finished three shots back in 18th place.

Senior Donelle Decker (101-93—194) finished 24th while junior Malia McKinnon (102-97—199) and senior Greta Krieger (102-101—203) finished 27th and 31st.

Blaine stops Rangers in section opener



Photo by Hannah Davis

The Forest Lake boys lacrosse team was upended by seventh-seeded Blaine 16-4 in the opening round of the Section 7 Tournament on Tuesday, May 31 at Blaine High School. The Rangers finished the season with a 1-13 record. - Stuart Groskreutz

Rangers sending potent cast to state track and field meet

Girls place second, boys third, in Section 7AAA, with individuals headed for state

Stuart Groskreutz
Contributing Writer

Freshman Norah Hushagen swept the distance races to help lead the Forest Lake girls track and field team to a runner-up finish in the Section 7AAA meet on June 1 and 3 at Forest Lake Area High School.

The Rangers finished with 109 points to finish second behind Blaine (118) in the team standings. Anoka was close behind in third place with 105 points.

“I think it was a pretty successful meet,” Rangers coach Shane Swanberg said.

For the girls, Forest Lake will send a total of six athletes to the inaugural Class AAA state meet. The Rangers earned four individual entries and also qualified its 4x400 relay for state, which is scheduled for June 9 and June 11 at St. Michael-Albertville High School.

Hushagan, who finished sixth in the state cross-country meet in the fall, crossed the finish line in 5:16.38 to outdistance teammate Isabel Castilleja (5:20.23) for the top spot.

Both advanced to state, which is reserved for the top two finishers in each event and any others who eclipse the state qualifying standard.

Hushagan also prevailed in the 3,200 meters with a time of 10:57.11, winning by a wide margin over runner-up Isabel Grant (11:40.54) of Andover. Grant edged Forest Lake seventh-grader and third-place finisher Molly McCarthy (11:41.29) for the second state bid in the event.

“Molly was really impressive — just a second away from going to state



Submitted photo

Freshman Norah Hushagen swept the distances races at the Section 7AAA meet, held at the new track at Forest Lake Area High School on June 1 and 3.

— which would have been pretty cool for a seventh-grader,” Swanberg said.

Junior Ellie Hanowski also delivered a strong showing for the Rangers while winning the 800 meters in a time of 2:14.87, bettering her own school record set in the conference meet a week earlier.

Hanowski also led of Forest Lake’s 4x200 relay team that finished second in a time of 4:03.63, more than a second behind the winning team from Blaine (4:02.39). Ella Niznik, Kylie Woods and Annabelle Stang filled out the relay for the Rangers.

There were also some narrow misses for Forest Lake. In addition to the third-place finish by McCarthy in the 3,200, Niznik placed third in the 800 meters and Anna Strupp lost a tie-breaker to finish third in the discus.

Niznik turned in a time of 2:17.26 to finish about half a second behind second-place finisher Shalom Sulungaine (2:16.70) of Blaine to prevent the Rangers from gaining two entries in the 800.

It was even closer for Strupp, a senior who tied Anoka’s Lydia Lakanen for second place after both finished with a distance of 108-5. Linaya Tubbs of Centennial won the event at 112-9.

Strupp, however, lost the tie-breaker that is determined by each athlete’s second-best throw. Lakanen’s next longest effort was 104-3, compared to 102-11 for Strupp.

“You usually don’t see (tie-tiebreaker), but it does happen,” Swanberg said.

Isabella Maloney wasn’t far behind for the Rangers while placing fifth in the discus with a distance of 104-3.

Senior Annika Gunderson has been among the top performers for the Rangers this season, but fell short of state after placing fourth in the pole vault with a height of 10-7.

The school record holder at 11-6, Gunderson would have needed to exceed that to finish among the top two as Kennedy Martinson (12-1) of Coon Rapids and Sofia Condon (11-10) of Anoka each surpassed the previous section record of 11-9.

Gunderson has been hampered by a hip flexor late in the season, but Swanberg felt the state qualifying standard was within reach.

“The number was 11-1, which she’s done before, but being hurt affected her ability to do that,” Swanberg said. “We’ve been banged up this whole season.

“Even competing with-

out them or limiting what they did, we still took second by nine points. I was impressed with how the team was resilient.”

VanAcker leads boys

On the boys side, Andover edged Blaine 153-151 for the team title on day two of the Section 7AAA meet, while the Rangers followed in third with 124 points.

But Forest Lake qualified three relays and added six individual entries for the state meet.

“It mostly kind of went as planned,” coach Andy Richardson said.

“We definitely had some really good performances and we’re sending a lot of guys to state. It went pretty well.”

Senior Daniel VanAcker won the 1,600- and 3,200-meter races for the Rangers and also anchored the first-place 4x400 relay — one of three section champion relay teams for the Rangers.

VanAcker, a University of Minnesota recruit, turned in a winning time of 4:21.05 in the 1,600 and set a school record while winning the 3,200 in a time of 9:11.85. Runner-up Gabriel Birkmeier (9:36.40) of Andover trailed VanAcker by 24 seconds in the two-mile race.

It was a closer race in the 1,600, but VanAcker

finished more than three seconds ahead of Birkmeier (4:24.64) to claim the title in that event.

VanAcker also joined Reid Olson, Jacob Mayer and Nicholas Bartlett to win the 4x400 relay in a school record time of 3:20.99, nearly two seconds ahead of the runner-up team from Andover (3:22.76).

The Rangers also broke school and section records while prevailing in the 4x200 relay. Gavin Rustad, Bartlett, Olson and Cole Brisbois finished with winning time of 1:28.12. Andover also bettered the previous Section 7AA record of 1:29.56 while placing second in a time of 1:29.06.

Rustad, Brisbois, Bartlett and Westin Hoyt added a victory in the 4x100 relay with a section record time of 42.49, just ahead of the runner-up team from Blaine (42.68).

Brisbois also placed second in the 100 meters with a time of 10.90, just ahead of third-place finisher Dmarzhay Johnson (10.92) of Coon Rapids. Jeremiah Chanzu won the event in a time of 10.84.

Mayer also qualified for state with a second-place showing in the 400 meters with a time of 50.61, less than a second behind winner Caden Wheeler (49.77) of Andover.

The Rangers will also be

represented at state in two field events.

Theodore Carey won the triple jump to qualify for state — a reward that wasn’t secured until his final jump.

“There were not any huge surprises, but the one who had to overcome was Tad in the triple jump,” Richardson said.

Carey ranked third until unleashing a 44-2 1/4 effort that moved him to the top of the podium with a new personal best by nearly two feet.

He also added a fourth-place finish in the long jump (21-3 1/4) and teammate Luke Heald wasn’t far behind in seventh place at 20-9 1/2.

Bartlett finished second in the long jump to qualify for state with a distance 21-10 1/2, which he achieved on his fourth and final jump.

“Nick kind of did the same thing,” Richardson said. “He missed his jumps in the finals because he was running relays.”

The section meet performance creates optimism for the Rangers at state, with strong scoring potential from the majority of its entries.

“We’ve got high expectations and we’re looking to make finals and do damage in the finals,” Richardson said. “We’re not just happy to be there. We want to do some damage this week.”

Girls lacrosse advances to section semifinals



Photo by Natalie Ryder

The Forest Lake girls lacrosse team propelled themselves to a 13-6 victory over Grand Rapids/Greenway in the quarterfinals of the section tournament on Thursday, June 2 at Forest Lake Area High School.

Forest Lake jumped out to a 9-3 halftime lead against Grand Rapids/Greenway and maintained a comfortable lead.

The Rangers played Centennial in the semifinals on Tuesday, June 7, after this edition of the Times went to press.

—Stuart Groskreutz, contributing writer



Sports

Hannah Davis | 763-233-0709 | hannah.davis@apgecm.com

Ranger baseball season ends with pair of losses, but notable win

Aaron Heckmann
Contributing Writer

It wasn't the ending that Forest Lake baseball hoped for, but a win against Anoka and tight losses to Andover and Blaine were a testament to resiliency that was displayed throughout the season.

"I am very proud of how we competed," Forest Lake coach Kale Henry said. "We played with passion, focus and intensity."

The Rangers entered the Section 7AAAA tournament as the No. 5-seed and didn't go down without a fight. They defeated Anoka 4-1 in a closely-contested section quarterfinal match on Wednesday, June 1. Forest Lake had two hits and scored three runs in the 11th inning to finally close out the game.

"We played a really clean baseball

game," Henry said. "All of the extra inning games and close games we had in the Suburban East prepared us for that."

Sophomore Nolan Dumonceaux had an impressive performance with four hits and two RBIs in the win. Junior Jake Johnson had two hits, while seniors Dylan Lacasse and Jacob Henry both had a hit.

The semifinal loss against No. 1-seed Andover on Thursday, June 2, was a lot closer than the final 6-0 score indicated. The Rangers battled all game long, allowing just six hits and two runs in the first five innings against a strong offensive team in the Huskies. Seniors Lucas Houle and Lacasse as well as sophomore Gavin Goehner contributed with a hit each in the shutout loss.

The Rangers fell 3-2 in a tight game against Blaine on Saturday, June 4, in

what would be their only match in the elimination bracket.

It was a tie game going into the sixth inning before the Bengals scored twice to take a commanding 3-1 lead. Forest Lake scored once in the seventh, but left a runner on the third and ultimately couldn't pull off the comeback.

"We didn't find the big hit against Blaine as we stranded the tying run on third, but that's part of the game," Henry said.

Dumonceaux had his team-leading fifth hit in sections while both Goehner and sophomore Owen Waldoch had a hit. The latter brought in a run, too.

The storyline in sections was pitching, just like it's been a major factor all season long.

"Our pitching kept us in games all year

long, and this tournament was no different," Henry said.

Seniors Gage Lund and Bailey Kasprovicz had solid performances on the mound in the section tournament. Lund played nearly seven innings in the win against Anoka, allowing a single run and thriving with a 73% strike rate. Kasprovicz allowed just six hits and three runs in 10 innings across two games, and 70% of the pitches he threw were strikes.

The Rangers will lose many notable seniors this year to graduation, which is a major loss to the program considering their instrumental part in the team's success this season.

"Our senior class showed great leadership throughout the year," Henry said. "We will miss them next year."

GRAND RE-OPENING

Saturday, June 18th, 2022







Special Offers, Grilling Demo, Giveaways

Come see our new layout and meet the new owners Tim and Elena!



ACE
The helpful place.

FOREST LAKE ACE HARDWARE

814 Lake St. S. Forest Lake, MN 55025
651-464-6262
Mon.-Fri. 8am-7pm Saturday 8am-6pm Sunday 10am-5pm

We want to thank our community and partners who have helped us through this renovation.